

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1       A system and method for automatically classifying lists of telephone numbers into  
one or more predetermined categories is provided. The system initiates calls to each  
telephone number. A specific request is made of the callee, which confirms the number  
5 as being "live-answered." The system uses speech recognition software to compare  
audible sounds received on the other end of the line to a plurality of spoken messages  
to classify each telephone number that has been classified as "not live-answered" for  
future use or exclusion. One embodiment of the system records each telephone call,  
10 enabling the process to be performed using a single call to each telephone number.